WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A method of alleviating symptoms of a connective tissue disorder selected from the group consisting of Dupuytren's contracture, scleroderma, Peyronie's disease, and claudication due to peripheral arterial disease comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, streptolysin O in an amount effective to treat one or more symptoms of said connective tissue disorder.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said connective tissue disorder is Dupuytren's contracture.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said connective tissue disorder is scleroderma.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said connective tissue disorder is Peyronie's disease.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said connective tissue disorder is claudication due to peripheral arterial disease.
- 6. The method of claim 1, where said streptolysin O is administered by a mode selected from the group consisting of sublingual, bucal, oral drench, subcutaneous, intradermal, intravenous, intramuscular, intrathecal, inhalation, and topical.
- 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said streptolysin O is administered sublingually.

- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.0032 units to about 50 units.
- 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.05 units to about 10 units.
- 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.01 units to about 1.0 unit.
- 11. The method of alleviating symptoms of a connective tissue disorder in bovines which is mastitis comprising administering to a bovine in need thereof streptolysin O in an amount effective to treat one or more symptoms of said connective tissue disorder.
- 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said streptolysin O is administered by a mode selected from the group consisting of sublingual, bucal, oral drench, subcutaneous, intradermal, intravenous, intramuscular, intrathecal, inhalation, and topical.
- 13. The method of claim 11, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.0032 units to about 50 units.
- 14. The method of claim 11, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.05 units to about 10 units.
- 15. The method of claim 11, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.01 units to about 1.0 units.

- 16. A pharmaceutical composition for administering to a subject for alleviating symptoms of a connective tissue disorder selected from the group consisting of Dupuytren's contracture, scleroderma, Peyronie's disease, and claudication due to peripheral arterial disease comprising streptolysin O in an amount effective to treat one or symptoms of said connective tissue disorder in a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
- 17. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 comprising 0.0032 units to about 50 units of streptolysin O.
- 18. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 comprising 0.05 units to about 10 units of streptolysin O.
- 19. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 comprising 0.01 units to about 1.0 unit of streptolysin O.
- 20. A pharmaceutical composition for administering to a bovine for alleviating symptoms of a connective tissue disorder selected from the group consisting of mastitis due comprising streptolysin O in an amount effective to treat one or more symptoms of said connective tissue disorder in a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
- 21. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20 comprising 0.0032 units to about 50 units of streptolysin O.
- 22. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20 comprising 0.05 units to about 10 units of streptolysin O.

- 23. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20 comprising 0.01 units to about 1.0 unit of streptolysin O.
- 24. A method of alleviating symptoms of reproductive fibrosis conditions comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, streptolysin O in an amount effective to treat one or more symptoms of said reproductive fibrosis.
- 25. The method of claim 24 wherein the reproductive fibrosis condition is uterine fibrosis.
- 26. The method of claim 24 wherein the reproductive fibrosis condition is fallopian tube fibrosis.
- 27. The method of claim 24 wherein the subject is selected from the group consisting of humans and horses.
 - 28. The method of claim 24 wherein the subject is a human.
- 29. The method of claim 24 wherein said streptolysin O is administered by a mode selected from the group consisting of sublingual, bucal, oral drench, subcutaneous, intradermal, intravenous, intramuscular, intrathecal, inhalation, and topical.
- 30. The method of claim 29, wherein said streptolysin O is administered sublingually.
- 31. The method of claim 24, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.0032 units to about 50 units.

- 32. The method of claim 24, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.05 units to about 10 units.
- 33. A method of protecting nerve cells in a subject from the effects of neurotoxic agents comprising administering to said cells an effective amount of Streptolysin O.
 - 34. The method of claim 33 wherein the subject is a mammal.
 - 35. The method of claim 33 wherein the subject is a human.
- 36. The method of claim 33 wherein said streptolysin O is administered by a mode selected from the group consisting of sublingual, bucal, oral drench, subcutaneous, intradermal, intravenous, intramuscular, intrathecal, inhalation, and topical.
- 37. The method of claim 36, wherein said streptolysin O is administered sublingually.
 - 38. The method of claim 33, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.0032 units to about 50 units.
 - 39. The method of claim 33, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.05 units to about 10 units.
 - 40. The method of claim 33, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.01 units to about 1.0 unit.

- 41. A method of inhibiting CD44 receptor mediated processes comprising administering streptolysin O to cells expressing the CD44 receptor in an amount effective to inhibit said CD44 receptor mediated processes.
- 42. The method of claim 41 wherein the CD44 receptor mediated process is hyaluronic acid binding to the CD44 receptor and streptolysin O is administered to cells expressing the CD44 receptor in an amount effective to inhibit said hyaluronic acid binding.
- 43. The method of claim 41 wherein said said streptolysin O is administered by a mode selected from the group consisting of sublingual, bucal, oral drench, subcutaneous, intradermal, intravenous, intramuscular, intrathecal, inhalation, and topical.
- 44. The method of claim 43, wherein said streptolysin O is administered sublingually.
- 45. The method of claim 41, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.0032 units to about 50 units.
- 46. The method of claim 41, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.05 units to about 10 units.
- 47. The method of claim 41, wherein said streptolysin O is administered at a dosage from about 0.01 units to about 1.0 unit.